

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06179 040849Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 PPT-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3990

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE

DEPT OF JUSTICE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

CONFIDENTIAL CANBERRA 6179

MANILA FOR LEGATT; CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND ICA ADVISER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PDIP, CFED, PORS, SOCI, CVIS (MEIER, JOHN H.), CPRS,

TN, US, CA

SUBJ: EXTRADITION: JOHN HERBERT MEIER (AKA IVOR A. ROBERTSON)

REF: WELLINGTON 4094

1. GOA DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) HAS JUST
CONFIRMED MEIER'S ITINERARY AS OUTLINED REFTEL. DFA HAS
INSTRUCTED AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN WELLINGTON TO
PROVIDE NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH ALL
AVAILABLE EVIDENCE RE MEIER'S COURT APPEARANCE IN SYDNEY
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JULY 28 TO ASSIST IN COURT PRESENTATION SHOULD MEIER BE
ARRESTED IN NEW ZEALAND.

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AUGUST 4, AUSTRALIAN
DFA OFFICIAL STATED THAT GOA WOULD PROVISIONALLY ARREST
MEIER AGAIN IF WE SO REQUESTED WHENEVER HE MIGHT RETURN
TO AUSTRALIA, BUT URGED THAT WE NOT DO SO. MEIER'S COUNSEL

WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE CLAIM OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY
AND HEARING MAGISTRATE, DRAWING ON JULY 28 PRECEDENT
(HOWEVER WRONGFUL) WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DISCHARGE MEIER.
SECOND ARREST, APPEARANCE BEFORE MAGISTRATE, AND RELEASE
OF MEIER WOULD CAUSE PUBLICITY UNFAVORABLE TO AUSTRALIAN
AND US GOVERNMENTS BUT SYMPATHETIC TO MEIER, AND WOULD ALSO
PROBABLY IRRITATE HEARING MAGISTRATE IN SYDNEY IN THE
PROCESS.

3. ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE IT INADVISABLE FOR US TO ASK
FOR MEIER'S SECOND PROVISIONAL ARREST SHOULD HE TURN UP
IN AUSTRALIA EN ROUTE TO AUCKLAND AND TONGA. BETTER
COURSE, AS SUGGESTED PARA 6 REFTEL, WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT
TO HAVE HIM ARRESTED IN NEW ZEALAND. AT THE SAME TIME,
WE OF COURSE DEFER TO DEPARTMENT IN MAKING THAT JUDGEMENT,
AND WILL ASK GOA TO ARREST MEIER IN AUSTRALIA IF SO
INSTRUCTED.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
ALSTON

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